



THE EPA'S PROPOSED HAZARDOUS WASTE PERMIT MODIFICATION

ORTHO-CLINICAL DIAGNOSTICS, INC.

RARITAN BOROUGH, NEW JERSEY

SEPTEMBER 2025



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the EPA, is seeking public comments on its proposal to modify a hazardous waste permit to require the Ortho-Clinical Diagnostics, Inc., or OCD, facility to start cleanup measures for hazardous waste remaining at the facility, and to make no further action determinations for some units or areas, under which no additional cleanup work will be required.



Public Comment Period

The proposed hazardous waste permit modification is available for public comment from September 5, 2025, to October 20, 2025. These periods are a way for the public to participate in and contribute to site cleanup decisions.

To provide comments to the EPA:

- Read the document online at: www.epa.gov/hwcorrectiveactioncleanups/documents-ortho-clinical-diagnostics-raritan-new-jersey
- You can review print copies, *by appointment only*, in the EPA's New York City office by contacting Andy Park (see contact information below).
- Please include in your comments the title of the document or section of the document you are referring to, where relevant.
- Please identify which Area of Concern, AOC, or Solid Waste Management Units, SWMU, you are referring to. If you are not sure, then describe the specific location or contaminant to which your comment applies.

To be considered, the EPA must receive your comments by email or in an envelope postmarked **by October 20, 2025**.

Send your comments by email to: Park.Andy@epa.gov

Or send comments by standard mail to:

Andy Park

Land and Redevelopment Programs Branch
U.S. EPA Region 2
290 Broadway, 25th Floor
New York, NY 10007

The EPA will consider comments submitted during this period, including statements made at the upcoming public meeting, as well as at a public hearing, if held. The EPA will provide written responses to all relevant comments in a Responsiveness Summary that will accompany the issuance of a final permit modification.



Upcoming Public Meeting

The EPA will hold a virtual public meeting on October 6, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom at <https://usepa.zoomgov.com/j/1603723648?pwd=VyQwZ14AQ6TfAmDlzbjuKKzEIT4now.1> to discuss the proposed permit modification and how to provide comments.





Additional Required Cleanup

Under the proposed permit modification, the EPA will require OCD to continue cleanup of four remaining areas, which include:

TCE Plume: A plume, or area of groundwater, on the facility and extending to the New Jersey Transit property south of the facility is contaminated with [trichloroethylene](#), or TCE; [benzene](#); [vinyl chloride](#); and [tetrachloroethylene](#), also known as PCE or Perc.

These chemicals, known as [volatile organic compounds](#), or VOCs, are potentially harmful contaminants that easily evaporate in the air and can migrate from the soil into the groundwater if not removed or treated. OCD began treating the plume in 2004 using 20 wells that inject a diluted molasses and water solution to break down the contaminants into non-harmful components.

Under the proposed permit modification, OCD will continue treating the groundwater until defined cleanup goals are met; continue monitoring the groundwater and providing the EPA with monitoring data; and establishing a Classification Exception Area, or CEA, which is a defined area in which use of groundwater is restricted.

SWMU-8 (Southwest Leach Field): The Leach Field, located under a paved parking lot, is a 6-inch clay pipe set in a bed of gravel, covering an area about 30-feet by 30-feet, that was used from 1966 until 1971. Site investigations identified soil and groundwater containing VOCs. After a previous cleanup of the area, the levels of the soil contamination do not exceed the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, or NJDEP, standards for industrial use. However, the NJDEP and the EPA determined OCD must continue to monitor the remaining small area of groundwater contamination, provide the monitoring data to the EPA, and set a formal restriction on groundwater use in the area until cleanup goals in this area are met.

SWMU-10 (Three No. 6 Fuel Oil USTs): SWMU-10 is an area that includes three abandoned underground storage tanks, or USTs, located beneath the Boiler Room in Building C. The two 10,000-gallon USTs and one 20,000-gallon UST supplied fuel oil to the boilers. The USTs were taken out of service in 1986, then filled with concrete and abandoned in place in 1993. OCD found [fuel oil](#)-related contaminants at a storm sewer pipe adjacent to the area, which might have spread from the USTs through leaky piping and a sewer line. For this reason, the EPA determined that OCD should continue to monitor the area for these contaminants in groundwater; provide the EPA with the monitoring data; continue to remove the contaminants from soil and groundwater; investigate the potential for vapors from the contaminants entering into Building C and Building H; limit use of this area until cleanup goals in this area are met; and establish a deed notice, which is a legal document that will inform any prospective buyers of the property about the existence of the abandoned USTs, associated piping, and contamination in soil in this area of the property.

AOC-16 (Soil in Building Basement): AOC-16 is an unpaved 180-feet by 120-feet soil area in the basement level of Building B that is unoccupied, except for occasional personnel conducting maintenance and repair activities. The "crawl space" extends throughout the majority of the Building B basement and has approximately four to six feet of overhead clearance and an exposed dirt floor. The site investigation found that the soil contained [polychlorinated biphenyls](#), or PCBs, [lead](#), [mercury](#), [antimony](#), [beryllium](#), and [polyaromatic hydrocarbons](#), or PAHs, and all the contaminants are above NJDEP standards for soil. OCD's policy is to allow only trained personnel into the restricted area and require personnel to use safety equipment to prevent direct skin contact with the soil. The proposed permit modification requires that OCD install a cover system over three targeted areas of the contaminated soil to protect workers from contact; install and maintain fencing around AOC-16; place and maintain warning signs around the area; and establish deed restrictions to inform prospective buyers of the property about the existence of the contamination to prevent human exposure to the soil. This area may be subject to further corrective action requirements if zoning changes or demolition of, or modification to, the building results in greater accessibility to the area. If either occurs, OCD must notify the EPA and must prepare and submit a Corrective Measures Implementation Work Plan, or comprehensive cleanup plan for the area, for the EPA's review and approval.



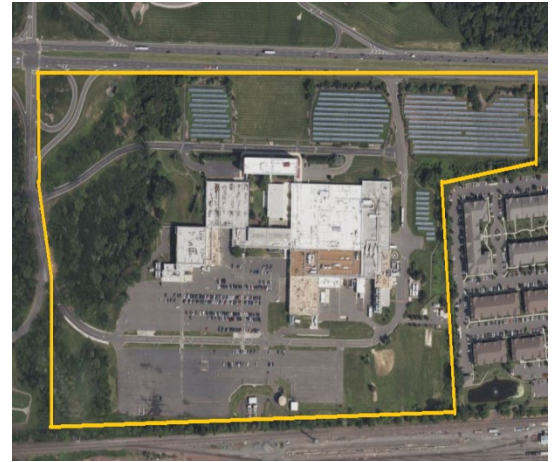
Regulatory Authorities

The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, better known as RCRA, created a nationwide framework for the EPA to regulate hazardous waste management. The Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments of 1984, or HSWA, amended RCRA to require corrective action for releases of hazardous wastes or constituents among other changes, such as phasing out land disposal of hazardous waste. This permit modification is being issued under the HSWA authority.



Site Investigation and Cleanup

OCD performed site investigations and interim corrective measures under HSWA for multiple SWMUs and AOCs, each of which might have known or suspected spills or releases as part of site operations. Based on the results of the investigations and interim corrective measures previously conducted, the EPA has determined that there are no further actions needed for 34 SWMUs and AOCs that OCD has cleaned to levels that are protective of people's health and the environment, or where the EPA has determined that releases did not result in risks to people's health or the environment.



Ortho-Clinical Diagnostics, 1001 U.S. Route 202 North, Raritan Borough, NJ [Sources: ESRI, Bing



Is My Drinking Water Safe?

Yes. There are no active residential wells within a half-mile distance in the direction of groundwater flow from the site, with all residences connected to a public drinking water system. The local public water system, supplied by New Jersey American Water, provides water that meets all state and federal drinking water health standards.



About the Ortho-Clinical Diagnostics Site

Ortho-Clinical Diagnostics, Inc., or OCD, conducts research and production related to transfusion medicine (donor screening and immunohematology) products, including manufacturing hospital and laboratory components used for blood chemistry testing products. The majority of the hazardous wastes generated at the facility are spent solvents, which are solvents that have been used and are now too contaminated or dirty to be used again for their original purpose. The rest of the hazardous wastes generated at the facility are comprised of metals and other non-solvent wastes. The 66-acre OCD facility, of which about 9 acres are covered by buildings, is located in an industrial-zoned area of Raritan Borough, Somerset County, New Jersey. The facility will continue to be an industrial site for the foreseeable future.

NJDEP issued a hazardous waste management permit for the facility in September 1988 to allow the company to operate a hazardous waste incinerator and to store hazardous waste in two container storage areas and one aboveground storage tank. These four operations stopped in 1991 and NJDEP ended the permit in July 1991. Additionally, the EPA issued a permit in November 1988, which remains effective, to require the facility to investigate spills and releases of hazardous wastes or constituents that have occurred at the facility. The permit also requires OCD to propose cleanup measures for hazardous waste or constituents remaining at the facility, under the joint oversight of the EPA and state agencies.